

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Lithuanian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Activity at Kaunas Airfield	DATE DISTR.	28 May 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. Prior to May 1951, the Kaunas airfield (N 54-53, E 23-55) west of the road to Mariampole (N 54-35, E 23-25) was continuously in use by various aircraft types of the Soviet Air Force. An estimated total of nine biplanes, 12 single-engine fighters, 27 twin-engine transports, and some gliders were stationed at the field, according to observations made while planes were in the air. No four-engine planes or jet fighters were observed over Kaunas. There was intensive day and night flying, and the field was lighted at night. The biplanes were apparently not used for training flights because they did not circle over the field but flew along the Neman River. Allegedly they were used for reconnaissance flights in partisan areas. Occasionally, formation flights by three or nine biplanes were observed. The single-engine planes had single rudder assemblies, radial engines, retractable landing gear, and the cabin mounted on the fuselage. They flew both night and day, and in bad weather. There was individual flying and combat training in single-engine planes, which fired for practice at towed targets with ball ammunition during the day and with tracer ammunition at night, aided by searchlights. A maximum of 12 planes was observed during the formation flying. The twin-engine transports had single rudder assemblies and retractable landing gear. They were always observed in connection with parachute jumps. The parachute jumps were usually made from a formation of three or nine planes. The jumping area was northeast of Kaunas. Ten to twelve men jumped in succession from each plane; usually the jumpers had one parachute each, but occasionally they had two. No more than 27 transports with parachute troops were observed aloft at the same time. [redacted] cargoes being released, but noted irregular activity by unidentified gliders.
2. The quartering facilities, mostly low wooden buildings, were located in the northern section of the field. The officers were billeted in a small settlement of wooden buildings referred to as "garden town", which was newly erected outside the field.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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